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## Army to Host Public Information Session On Caustic Wastewater March 25

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency will host a public information session on caustic wastewater on **Thursday, March 25** beginning at **6 p.m.** at the South Vermillion High School cafeteria located at 770 West Wildcat Drive in Clinton, Indiana.

The session, hosted by Col. Jesse Barber of the agency's Alternative Technologies and Approaches Project, will provide another opportunity for an exchange of information regarding the ongoing efforts at the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF) and the Army's recommended approach for off-site treatment and disposal of the caustic wastewater that will be generated during agent destruction operations.

Joining Col. Barber will be a representative from the DuPont Secure Environmental Treatment (SET) Facility, located in Deepwater, N.J. If awarded the contract for treatment of the caustic wastewater, DuPont is proposing to utilize their SET facility. In preparation for this potential work, DuPont has been performing technical assessments to demonstrate that they can transport and treat the caustic wastewater from Newport safely and without adverse impact to the environment. These technical assessments addressed a broad range of subjects:

1. Transportation safety and risk management
2. Treatability of the caustic wastewater using DuPont-patented technology
3. Screening the level of environmental risk to the Delaware River
4. Toxicology assessment of health hazards

The DuPont representative will provide information about the results from the technical assessments and be available to answer any questions related to these efforts.

"Off-site treatment of the caustic wastewater is the only option that allows us to start agent destruction operations in 2004," Barber stated. "With the DuPont assessments now complete and out for public review, this public information session will allow an excellent opportunity for an exchange of information with the public regarding this important initiative."

"With these information sessions, we want anyone with an interest or concern, to have the opportunity to ask questions and be able to leave the meeting assured that their questions or concerns have been answered to their satisfaction," he said.

The Army also extended the public review and comment period for another 30 days from March 18, 2004 for the Draft Revised Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to 2002 Environmental Assessment for *Accelerated Neutralization of the Chemical Agent and Off-Site Shipment of Liquid Process Effluents at the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility*. The document states that the Army's plan for transporting caustic wastewater, or hydrolysate, for treatment and disposal is safe and will not have an adverse impact on the public or environment at the project site, along the transportation route, or at the potential commercial treatment facility. The public now has until midnight April 19, 2004 to provide comments to the Draft Revised FONSI. This extension will also allow additional time for the public to review the DuPont studies.

The public may review Dupont's technical assessments by visiting the DuPont Web Site at: [www.set.dupont.com](http://www.set.dupont.com). Printed documents and documents stored on compact disks are available for review at the Newport Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 140 S. Main, St., Newport, Ind., or Clinton Public Library, 313 S. 4th St., Clinton, Ind. For additional information regarding the public meeting, contact the Newport Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office toll free at 1-866-300-9034.